

CAPTURING OUR COMMUNITY THE BEST OF BLOOMINGTON COMES THROUGH IN PHOTOS



After a long winter, spring has arrived in Bloomington. We recently received this beautiful photo of the South Loop District, which will be undergoing a major transformation in coming years (see story below), from resident Steve Silverman.

Silverman captured the image of Reflections condominiums and light rail transit from his office at the Riverview Office Tower, 8009 34th Avenue South.

Help us show Bloomington at its best and tell Bloomington's story through your images of landmarks, businesses, people, events, nature and more. The photos you submit may be used on the City's website, social media pages and in City publications. Visit the [City's website](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us) and click on the *Share Photos* icon to submit.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS COMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SLATED TO BEGIN THIS SPRING



The South Loop District comprises two-thirds of Bloomington's residential and commercial development potential and has many features, such as the Mall of America and Bloomington Central Station, that make it a premier destination.

As described in the February *Briefing*, the City is undertaking a variety of major infrastructure improvements slated to begin in the district in 2013 and 2014. These infrastructure improvements further set the stage for even more higher-density, mixed-use development by improving pedestrian and vehicle circulation and attracting visitors and employers to South Loop.

KILLEBREW DRIVE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The pedestrian bridge, *image below right*, will improve safety by replacing pedestrian crossings. The bridge will be completely covered and partially temperature-controlled with elevator and stair access on the south side of Killebrew. Construction will be completed by late fall 2013.

LINDAU LANE GRADE SEPARATION

To prepare for future development north of Mall of America, Lindau Lane will be lowered and a bridge to connect buildings will be created over the street. Construction of the new bridge and retaining walls will begin this spring. Sections of Lindau Lane will be closed in phases, with the major closure in 2013 between Ikea Way and 24th Avenue. Access to Mall of America will remain open during construction. The bridge deck will include a landscaped public pedestrian plaza with a loop road to serve as a drop-off area for the Mall.

Construction is expected to be completed by November 2014.

LINDAU LANE EXTENSION

This project will create a walkable street that will support storefront development between 24th and 30th avenues. Its completion is expected to spur more pedestrian-friendly and private development. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-2015.



30TH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Construction on 30th Avenue between American Boulevard and East Old Shakopee Road will convert a private access to a public street that connects Lindau Lane to north and south arterial streets. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-2015.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.

DRIVING SAFELY THROUGH ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Everyone plays a role in maintaining a safe work zone area during construction projects. Motorists should follow these tips while driving through a work site:

- Observe posted detours and warning signs.
- Stay alert – watch for signs, equipment and construction workers.
- Avoid tailgating.
- Follow posted speed limits.
- Stay in one lane while driving through a work zone.
- Use extra caution when driving through a site at night.



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When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.



FLYING HIGH CITY HOTELS OFFER QUALITY AND CONVENIENCE

According to Hotels.com, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is ranked #2 in the nation for quality hotels near a major airport. In fact, one in four lodging dollars spent in the metropolitan area go to Bloomington hotels. Ronald Reagan International Airport in Washington, D.C., took the top ranking.

CALLING ALL TENNIS PLAYERS

JOIN THE USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS PROGRAM

Experienced and novice tennis players, ages 10 - 18, are invited to join the USTA Junior Team Tennis program and compete with players from surrounding communities, **June 17 - July 26**. Registration deadline is May 20. For more information, visit the [City's website](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TEAM TENNIS.

FIND US ON YOUTUBE LOOK FOR THE VIDEO ICON FOR MORE INFORMATION

Throughout the *Briefing*, look for the video icon, *pictured at right*, that indicates a video version of the story you're reading is available.



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BLOOMINGTON AT ITS BEST
MEETING THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Last month, we held our annual State of the City event at the newly opened, four-star service Radisson Blu Hotel – the first hotel connected to Mall of America and an excellent example of how the hotel industry is alive and well in Bloomington. We now boast 38 hotels with a total 8,287 hotel rooms in our city.

This year’s State of the City theme – Bloomington at its Best – reported the results of our in-depth community survey conducted in 2012 by the National Research Center out of Boulder, CO. Thousands of residents were contacted for their views on Bloomington as a place to live and work, including strengths and weaknesses.

The wide-ranging survey allowed us to compare results from 500 cities surveyed by the National Research Center and a select group of 21 high-performance peer cities from across

the nation that are similar to us in size, location, demographics, population, and employment base. While results show Bloomington ranks well, the ongoing use of this survey will allow us to gauge continuing improvement compared to these peer communities. We will conduct another survey this year.

Bloomington has a long history of articulated strategic visioning going back more than 30 years. The City also has a proven track record of being able to turn these visions into reality. Examples include Mall of America and, more recently, enhancements intended to create a more sustainable community along with the infrastructure for development of South Loop.

Surveys are not done to pat ourselves on the back, but rather to measure how we’re doing. The results produced some pleasant surprises in how we stacked up. It gave us a good

sense of how we meet the needs and expectations of the broader spectrum of Bloomington and how well we are meeting our strategic vision and fulfilling our mission of the community and the organization created to serve it. We can accomplish our goals because we have a vision, and the ability and resources to carry it out.

Residents tell us we are heading in the right direction. The survey showed that 90 percent of residents rated the overall quality of life in Bloomington as excellent or good, which places us third among 17 peer cities who asked their residents the same question. As we continue to revitalize and renew our city, our efforts will move us closer to our vision of a healthy, sustainable, fiscally sound community, which defines our strategy to continue to keep Bloomington thriving for the long term.



CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS

PROMOTING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
OPEN TO BUSINESS PROGRAM
OFFERS START-UP HELP

Do you need help creating a business plan or marketing your existing business to the public? The Open to Business program may be able to help. Sponsored by the City of Bloomington Port Authority and Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the program promotes economic development, creates and retains jobs and cultivates small businesses in Hennepin County.

The nonprofit organization Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) provides free one-on-one technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs. The services offered include business plan development, feasibility studies, cash flow and financing projections, marketing, preparing loan requests and advocacy with lending institutions.

MCCD connects entrepreneurs with banks, community development lenders and other resources. MCCD’s small business loan fund allows small

businesses access to the capital they need to succeed. In 2012, the program served 252 businesses in 14 Hennepin County communities, creating nearly 100 new jobs and providing \$950,000 in direct and facilitated financing.

HOW TO GET STARTED

An MCCD business advisor will have office hours at Bloomington Civic Plaza on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1 - 4 p.m., beginning April 24. To schedule an appointment, contact Rob Smolund at 612-789-7337 or e-mail rsmolund@mccdmn.org.

DID YOU KNOW?
BLOOMINGTON IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

Employment is the foundation of Bloomington’s healthy economy. In the 2012 resident survey, see Mayor’s column above, Bloomington ranked #1 out of the national peer cities group for employment opportunities. Bloomington’s December 2012 unemployment rate reported by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development was only 4.9 percent.

Based on population and employment, the United States Census Bureau designates Bloomington as a “Principal City.” That’s why Bloomington is included along with Minneapolis and St. Paul in the official name for our metropolitan area.



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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

MAKING CONNECTIONS FIRST BUS RAPID TRANSIT LINE OPENS

Traveling to Bloomington by bus will soon get a lot easier – and faster. The Metro Red Line, formerly known as the Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), will open in June providing station-to-station transit service connecting Bloomington, Eagan, Apple Valley, and Lakeville. At the Mall of America (MOA) transit center, connections can be made from the Metro Red Line to both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Red Line BRT is the first of its kind to operate in Minnesota. BRT buses operate on existing roadways like regular buses, but use bus-only shoulder lanes and enhanced transit stations to achieve service levels similar to light rail. The service is designed to mimic light rail transit with more efficient, regular service, limited stops and fixed station areas.

Promoting the Red Line

The City is working with Dakota County on a Metro Red Line market and development study to identify strategies to promote BRT as a development and redevelopment catalyst in the station areas. The study will focus on continuing to develop the vision for transit-oriented development and creating a development guide that includes preferred land uses, station enhancements and funding opportunities for the Metro Red Line transitway. Open houses will be held this spring and summer to gather public input. For more information, contact Senior Planner Julie Farnham at 952-563-4739 or jfarnham@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



MEET BLOOMINGTON'S NEW FIRE MARSHAL A FAMILIAR FACE WILL HEAD FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Laura McCarthy is the City of Bloomington's new fire marshal. She has been a volunteer firefighter and deputy chief in Bloomington for 23 years and a City fire inspector for 15 years. As a fire inspector, McCarthy conducted countless safety trainings for local businesses and schools and oversaw regular inspections of commercial, industrial and multifamily residential structures to ensure compliance with Minnesota fire and building codes.

As fire marshal, McCarthy will manage the Fire Prevention Division, which includes supervising a staff of four fire inspectors. McCarthy will continue to volunteer as a firefighter.

McCarthy was promoted in February when Fire Marshal Gene Dugal retired after 21 years with the City.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
FIRE MARSHAL



HITTING THE PAVEMENT



A CLEAN SWEEP STREET MAINTENANCE BEGINS ANNUAL STREET CLEANING

Around this time of year, typically the first week of April (weather permitting), Street Maintenance launches its annual street-cleaning activities to rid city streets of debris, dirt and sand left over from a winter. A clean sweep of all Bloomington streets takes six to eight weeks.

To protect Nine Mile Creek from pollutants, streets in that area are swept first. The street sweeping program is part of the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Street sweeping not only beautifies the city; it prevents debris from entering the stormwater

system and polluting nearby water bodies. Street sweeping is also a great value for homeowners. Owners of single-family, median-valued homes in Bloomington pay only 56 cents a month (out of their stormwater utility bill) for the two street sweepings.

To see when your street will be swept, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: STREET SWEEPING.

SAFETY TIP

Remember to keep a safe distance from street-cleaning and maintenance equipment in operation.

POTHOLE PATROL

The City maintains 360 miles of pavement. The scheduled maintenance program includes crack sealing, sealcoating and overlay. Potholes are repaired by Street Maintenance laborers who remove, repair and patch damaged pavement. The City's goal is to respond to all pothole notifications within 24 hours. The pothole is initially corrected by installing a temporary patching material. Permanent pothole repairs are prioritized by size, number and street traffic volume.

To report a pothole, visit the City's website or call 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: POTHOLES.



IN MEMORIAM BLOOMINGTON'S FIRST CITY ATTORNEY JAMES KEMPf

Bloomington's first City Attorney, James Kempf, passed away in January at the age of 89. Kempf served as Bloomington's City Attorney when the City was still a village. He worked for the City until 1959.

Kempf also served on the Bloomington School Board and as secretary of the Metropolitan Sports Commission from 1954 - 1978, where he helped plan and develop the Metropolitan Stadium.

The above photo of Kempf was taken by renowned Bloomington photographer Irv Norling.

Photo courtesy: Bloomington Historical Society.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FILE YOUR APPLICATION BY JUNE 4

Candidate filing for City Council offices begins at 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 21, and closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4. Affidavits of candidacy are accepted by the City Clerk's Office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. City offices to be elected in 2013 for terms beginning in 2014 are: Councilmember At-Large, Councilmember District I, Councilmember District II, Councilmember District III and Councilmember District IV.

2013 ELECTION DATES

- Primary Election – Tuesday, August 13 (Required only if more than two candidates file for the same office.)
- General Election – Tuesday, November 5

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-4925.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP



QUESTIONS?

CALL 952-563-8760.

Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, **please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day.** Remember, trucks will go through only once.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
CURBSIDE CLEANUP



2013 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

East of Portland	Saturday, April 13
Portland to Penn	Saturday, April 20
Penn to France	Saturday, April 27
France to Normandale	Saturday, May 4
West of Normandale	Saturday, May 11



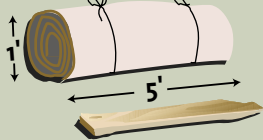
To receive Curbside schedule reminders, scan the QR code *above* or visit the [City's website](#), click on *E-Subscribe*, and sign up for e-mail updates.

PREPARE FOR THE CLEANUP

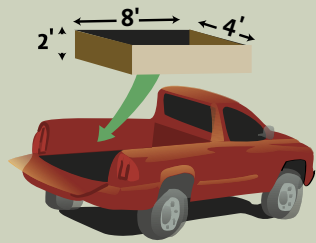
- Items must be boxed or bundled with twine. Plastic bags are not acceptable. Note, containers and all their contents will be disposed of if on the curb.
- Seniors or residents who are disabled:** If you require assistance, contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call Human Services one week in advance of the pickup for volunteer availability, 952-563-4944 or TTY 952-563-4943.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- General junk:** Boxed or bundled with twine – under 100 pounds per item.
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove doors or tie securely shut), etc. **Limit TWO** appliances per house. **Do not set out appliances until morning of pickup.**
- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble or tie down hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.
- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. **NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.**
- BUNDLED brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that can be carried by one person or they will not be picked up. Brush piles must be no more than what can fit in one level standard-size pickup truck.



- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (swing sets, barbeque grills, bikes, treadmills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Smaller items should be taken to the Hennepin County Problem Materials Center, 1400 West 96th Street.



NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- Small scrap metal.**
- Tires and batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks and toilets.**
- Construction items:** Contractor materials, railroad ties, concrete, bricks and shingles (asbestos).
- Electronic goods:** TVs, computers, stereos.
- Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents, fluorescent tubes, propane and other household chemicals.
- Organic materials:** Leaves, grass clippings, sod, stumps, logs and food waste.
- Recyclable materials:** Newspapers, cans, glass, corrugated cardboard, boxboard and plastic bottles.



For tips on how to properly dispose of items not accepted at the curb, call 612-348-3777 or visit the *A - Z How-to-Get-Rid-of-It Guide* on Hennepin County's website at www.hennepin.us, keywords: Get rid.

Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals and businesses are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



On any given day, especially in the very early morning hours, you can see white-tailed deer, red foxes, woodchucks, bald eagles, ospreys, great horned owls and many other species of wildlife around Bush Lake. Paul Erdmann lives in a small cabin on the lake, where he is caretaker of a property owned by the Bush Lake Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. The abundance of wildlife is one reason Erdmann took the caretaker job.

"In Bloomington we are blessed with the Minnesota River and many beautiful parks and open spaces," he said. "These areas provide habitat for many species of wildlife. Protecting our natural world is essential for the health and well-being of people and wildlife alike."

The Bush Lake Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America was started in 1937 to protect wildlife habitat and water quality in the Minnesota River Valley. Today, the 150 members of the Bush Lake Chapter continue to protect the environment by creating and maintaining shelter for wildlife, planting native grasses and monitoring the water quality of Bush Lake.

The chapter maintains 20 wood duck and eastern bluebird houses, in addition to bat houses that provide shelter for little brown bats. Last year, the focus was on increasing the chimney swift population by installing a tower for the tiny birds to make their home.

"Our tower is a stand-alone chimney with an open entrance on top and a closed, accessible hatch on the bottom," Erdmann said. "The walls are insulated and the exterior is made of vinyl siding in order to deter squirrels and other predators."

Erdmann said the Bush Lake chapter is always looking for volunteers.

"We have plenty of opportunities to help in our ecological restoration efforts, including removing buckthorn and other nonnative plants and replacing them with native plants," he said.

The chapter's next big project will be an Earth Day event on April 20. Erdmann said the event will include an outdoor digital photography class for kids and adults and guest speakers. For more information on the Bush Lake chapter, visit www.BushLakeIkes.org.

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF WATER QUALITY

To keep Bloomington's water bodies beautiful and healthy, the City must occasionally drain the water and scoop out the sediment deposited over time from the storm sewer system. According to Civil Engineer Steve Segar, the best time of the year to excavate is in the winter when the ground is frozen.

"During the winter there is minimal danger of disturbing waterfowl, as most have migrated and the risk of rain filling the empty hole is low," he said. "This past winter, more than 19,000 tons of sediment were removed from Wright Lake [8501 17th Avenue South], after a survey found high levels of contaminants in the sediment. The excavated material was taken to a landfill for proper disposal."

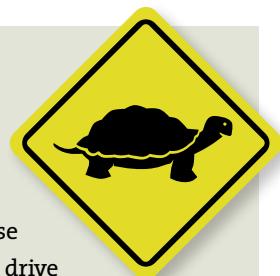
You can help keep local water bodies clean by using phosphorus-free fertilizer and asphalt-based driveway sealers instead of coal-based. In addition, installing rain gardens and rain barrels prevents chemical run-off.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SUSTAINABILITY.

GIVE TURTLES A BRAKE

Each year in the spring, female turtles move from lakes, ponds, rivers and wetlands to nesting areas, where they deposit their eggs in self-excavated nests. Turtles are often observed crossing roads as they make their way to these nesting areas. If you see a turtle on the road, slow down and drive around it, and look for turtles before backing out of a parking space.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TURTLE CROSSING.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

Human Services helps individuals and families achieve safe, self-sufficient and healthy lives through a variety of accessible, innovative programs and resources. Some of these are described below, but all are contained in the Human Services Community Resource Catalog. Pick up your catalog at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or find it online.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RESOURCE CATALOG

HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERS

TAKE A BOOK, LEAVE A BOOK

MINIATURE LIBRARY FINDS A HOME AT CREEKSIDE

With its miniature house shape and tiny windows, the Little Free Library may look like a large birdhouse, but this house is not for the birds. When the library is installed on the west lawn of Creekside later this spring, it will be bursting with books to borrow and share.

Little Free Libraries have been popping up all over Minnesota. Usually installed near streets and filled with donated books, the libraries can hold roughly two dozen volumes. Each library works on an honor system – a sign on the side reads “Take a Book, Leave a Book.” The Creekside Little Free Library was designed and built by Creekside woodworker Lenn Lacher, pictured below with his wife Mary, who painted the house. Lacher has taken home numerous State Fair blue ribbons for his woodworking.

Human Services Manager Lorinda Pearson said she hopes the library will build a greater sense of community in the neighborhood and encourage more people to read books.

“The excitement for this has been building for a long time,” she said. “We’ve already had donations of books coming in. We will have a fully stocked mini-library by the time we open.”



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY STUDENTS RUN FOR PEACE

Hundreds of Bloomington high school students, staff and community members will run from Kennedy to Jefferson High School on **Friday, May 3, 10 a.m.**, to promote peace. Each school observes Diversity Day with presentations and activities.

Adult volunteers are needed to assist with the run. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733. This event is sponsored by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Bloomington Public Schools Office of Educational Equity.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DIVERSITY DAY.



COME FLY WITH US

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT

Kite flyers of all ages are invited to the annual Kite Day celebration. This free event takes place at Valley View Play Fields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue, **Saturday, May 4 from 1- 4 p.m.** Enjoy kite flying demonstrations by the Minnesota Kite Society, entertainment, food, and more. Free kites and beach balls will be given to all kids under the age of 18, while supplies last.

Kite Day is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Zeigler Power Systems, the Minnesota Kite Society, the Breakfast Optimist Club of Bloomington and the Bloomington Sister City Organization.

For more information, call 952-563-8733 or visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: KITE DAY.

CREEKSIDE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ANNUAL POETRY READING

Join award-winning poet Jerry Neren for the Second Annual Poetry Reading on **Saturday, May 18, 2 - 4 p.m.**, at Creekside. Neren will read poems written by his students and from his book *Once Upon a Time in Vietnam*, which was awarded the 2010 Pearl Poetry Prize. Neren's students will also read their own poetry. There will be a music performance by guitarist Pavel Jany and light refreshments. Registration is required. This event is cosponsored by Home Care Assistance.



BRAIN GAMES VS. BRAIN FITNESS

Protect your brain health and have fun at the same time with Dakim Fitness. The digital brain games available online may offer amusement and an ego boost when you rack up millions of points, but do they really improve your brain function? Dakim's structured brain exercise program helps improve your memory and protects your brain against age-related cognitive decline. Stop by Creekside for a demonstration. Dakim is free to registered users.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: DAKIM

FREE CONCUSSION SEMINAR AND TESTING

The City of Bloomington, Allina Health and the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance are offering a free concussion seminar and baseline testing at Bloomington Civic Plaza on **Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** This seminar will feature educational and breakout sessions for adults, youth and athletics coaches and a health and resource fair. Former NFL player Ben Utecht will give the keynote address. For more information, call 952-563-4944 or e-mail reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Coffee Talks feature guest speakers presenting on a variety of topics. Join your friends at Creekside for good company and conversation. Complimentary coffee and other refreshments will be provided. Registration is required by calling 952-563-4944.

- Tuesday, April 9: 2013 State of the City, a discussion with Mayor Gene Winstead.
- Tuesday, April 30: Cyber Theft, presented by the Bloomington Police Department.
- Wednesday, May 8: Veterans Benefits and Medical Assistance, presented by Edina Real Estate and Elder Law P.A.



CELEBRATE MAY DAY

You're invited to create a May Day basket on **Wednesday, May 1, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**, at Creekside. All supplies will be provided. To register, call 952-563-4944 or e-mail reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

This event is co-sponsored by Homewatch Caregivers.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO AGE IN PLACE?

Senior homeowners and their family members can attend an aging in place class presented by Aging in Place Midwest, **Saturday, May 18, 9 - 11 a.m.**, at Creekside. This free class is designed to help older adults stay in their homes longer by reducing the risk of falls, improving functionality of rooms and increasing knowledge of the latest healthcare technologies. Class participants will walk through an assessment and planning tool that provides a room-by-room analysis of their homes.



Don't wait in line! Visit the City's website to register for Parks and Recreation activities and leagues.

JOIN A LEAGUE
SUMMER SAND
VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES
LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Parks and Recreation is now accepting registrations for Adult Summer Sand Volleyball. Matches are scheduled at Dred Scott Playfield, beginning **Wednesday, May 29**.
When: May 29 - August 8.
Where: Dred Scott Playfield
10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.
Cost: \$270/team + tax (residents)
\$325/team + tax (non-residents)
Deadline: Friday, May 15.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VOLLEYBALL.



ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL
COMPETITIVE AND
RECREATIONAL LEAGUES

Who: Adults, 19 and older, and young people, ages 10 - 18.
When: Adults - Tuesdays
June 18 - August 13
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Youth - Mondays
June 17 - August 12
(No program July 1 and 2.)
Where: Tarnhill Park
9650 Little Road.
Cost: \$59 includes team shirt and photo.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADAPTIVE.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS
SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Born Again Jocks welcome residents, 55 years and older, of all skill levels and abilities to join the team. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. For more information, call Bob Wandberg at 612-724-1849.

INNER TUBE WATER
POLO

Introducing the greatest game you've never played - inner tube water polo. Teams play a fun variation of water polo while floating on inner tubes.
Who: Adults, 18 and older.
When: Wednesdays,
June 5 - July 31.
Where: Valley View Middle School Pool
8900 Portland Avenue S.
Cost: \$250 per team + tax.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR ALL



DATES TO REMEMBER

Visit the City's website for a complete list.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Summer Spectrum, Summer Adventure Playgrounds, Adventure Trips, Junior Team Tennis, Galaxy Summer of Service and Arts in the Parks begin.

MONDAY, JULY 15

Camp Kota begins.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ACTIVITIES.

DON'T WAIT IN LINE ON OPENING WEEKEND!

Avoid opening weekend lines and purchase your Bush Lake Beach parking pass or Bloomington Family Aquatic Center season pass ahead of time at the Parks and Recreation counter at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

ENJOY SOME TIME AT THE POOL
AT BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

301 East 90th Street

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas and NEW water slides, diving boards, and just-renovated bathhouse and concession stand.

When: June 8 - August 18 and weekends through Labor Day.
Weekdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Weekends: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Holidays: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Daily passes	Age	Daily admission	After 5 p.m.
	Age 1 and under	Free	Free
	2 - 5 years	\$7.50	\$6.50
	6 - 54 years	\$9.50	\$7.50
	55+ years	\$7.50	\$6.50

Season passes	Age	Resident	Non-resident
Child	2 - 10 years	\$16.75	\$41.50
Young adult	11 - 15 years	\$28.50	\$53.50
Adult	16 - 54 years	\$52.00	\$77.50
Senior	55+ years	\$16.75	\$41.50

Season passes are available for purchase **now through June 5** at the Parks and Recreation counter in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You may also purchase passes at the Aquatic Center, **June 5 - 7, 4 - 7 p.m.**, or during regular business hours beginning June 8.

A parent or guardian must purchase passes for children under 18 years of age. A driver's license or state ID is required to verify residency. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AQUATIC CENTER.



BUSH LAKE BEACH

SPEND SOME TIME AT THE LAKE

9140 East Bush Lake Road

You don't need to go up north to find a lake to enjoy. You can have a picnic lunch, build a sand castle with the kids, practice your backstroke or just relax and soak up the sun right in your own backyard at beautiful Bush Lake Beach.

A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park, June 1 - August 31.

When: June 8 - August 18.
Time: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., daily; lifeguards on duty beginning at 11 a.m.

Season parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost is \$32.50 for the season (June through August) or \$6.50 daily.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: BUSH LAKE BEACH.



SPECTRUM OF FUN
CLASSES, CAMPS AND MORE

Summer Spectrum classes and camps emphasize learning in a safe and nurturing environment. The fun begins **Monday, June 17**, and lasts eight weeks. Summer Spectrum is open to all youth, Pre-K through 9th grade.



Classes and camps are held at Oak Grove Elementary School, 1301 West 104th Street. Summer Spectrum is a collaboration among Bloomington Public Schools' Community Services, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center.

Summer activity catalogs are mailed to all parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools. For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER SPECTRUM.



SPECIAL EVENTS AT
THE POOL

DJ NIGHTS

It's a dance party at the pool, **Friday, July 12 and August 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

BOB THE BEACHCOMBER

Back by popular demand is the always entertaining Bob the Beachcomber, **Sunday, July 21, 1 - 3 p.m.**

MOVIE NIGHT AT BUSH
LAKE BEACH

Enjoy a movie under the stars at Bush Lake Beach, **Saturday, July 27, 8:30 - 11 p.m.**

PROGRAMS THAT GET KIDS MOVING



RENT A PICNIC SHELTER
BLOOMINGTON PARKS ARE THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR SUMMER PARTY

Picnic shelters are available to rent April 15 - October 15 for picnics, receptions, reunions, meetings and more. Shelters have electricity, grills and restrooms. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, and softball fields.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTERS.

PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIPS

Enjoy a variety of games, sports, and arts and crafts at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, or Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South.

Dates: July 1 - 5, August 19 - 23 and August 26 - 30. (No program July 4.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP.

SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Get to know your neighbors and join your friends for an awesome summer of fun at your neighborhood playground.

Date: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 17 - August 15. (No program July 1 - 5.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood parks.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.
Cost: \$62 on or before June 3; \$67 on or after June 4.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ADVENTURE.

SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS AT VALLEY VIEW PARK

Date: Monday - Friday, June 17 - August 16. (No program July 1 - 5.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Valley View Park.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.
Cost: \$98 on or before June 3; \$108 on or after June 4. Sack lunches provided.

GALAXY SUMMER OF SERVICE

Date: Monday - Friday, June 17 - August 16. (No program July 1 - 5.)
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South.
Ages: 11 - 14 years old.
Cost: \$200 for summer or \$50 per week. Sack lunches provided.

BREAK OUT THE KAYAKS AND CANOES
AT BUSH LAKE

Attention, canoe and kayak owners! There is no better location than Bush Lake to paddle and store your canoe or kayak. Racks are available for rent, **May 1 - October 31**, for a fee of \$70 plus tax each. The racks are located in West Bush Lake Park, 9401 West Bush Lake Road, near the launch area.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CANOE RACKS.

GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS
JOIN A GOLF LEAGUE

There are plenty of opportunities for league play at Dwan Golf Club and Hyland Greens Golf Course, including men's, women's and junior leagues. Season passes are also available.

Dwan Men's Club

Dwan Men's Club is a non-profit that organizes and conducts golf leagues and tournaments at Dwan Golf Club. For more information, call 952-887-5028 or e-mail membership@dwanmensclub.com.

Dwan Women's Clubs

Women can participate in an 18-Hole Club and a 9-Hole Club at Dwan. To learn more, contact Course Manager Rick Sitek at 952-563-8702 or e-mail rsitek@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

New this year!

Youth ages 17 and under can purchase a Junior Season Pass for Hyland Greens Golf Course for \$99 for unlimited golf the entire season.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
DWAN GOLF CLUB



LOOKING FOR FRESH AND LOCAL FOOD?
THE FARMERS MARKET IS BACK

The seventh annual Farmers Market opens **Saturday, June 8**, with fresh, locally grown foods, cooking demonstrations, entertainment and kids' activities. The Farmers Market takes place at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, every Saturday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., through October 12. Credit cards and EBT cards are now accepted at the information tent.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in the Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility

GALLERY HOURS

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
CENTER FOR THE ARTS.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

OUT OF THE ABYSS: WILLIAM MURRAY AND THE PRISON ART PROJECT

Artist William Murray displays his work and art created by prison inmates from his 30 years of working as an art instructor at Stillwater prison, **April 12 - May 17**.



ATRIUM GALLERY

URBANSCAPES

The colorful urban oil paintings of artist Michael Schmidt will be on display through **April 28**.

BLACK BOX THEATER

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Enjoy Rhonda Laurie and her band as they perform musical hits from the 30s, 40s and 50s, **Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$20 adults; \$18 seniors and \$15 students.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT EVENT

This event takes place **Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 p.m.** and features a reenactment of the Dred Scott trials and a dedication of the new historical sign at Dred Scott Playfield. To register call 952-563-4948; TTY 952-563-4933.

APRIL IN PARIS

The Bloomington Chorale transports you to France with April in Paris, **Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$16 adults; \$12 seniors/students.

ON THE TOWN

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents one of Broadway's most energetic and inventive musicals, **April 26 - May 26**. Tickets are \$30 with discounts available for students and seniors.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

Enjoy the music of this dynamic women's show choir, **Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m.** and **Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 students/seniors.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION
TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Top 10 things to know about smoke alarms include:

- 1 Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement.
- 2 Most smoke alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Change them when you set your clocks back for daylight saving time.
- 3 Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- 4 Teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
- 5 Interconnect your smoke alarms so when one sounds they all sound. Some alarms accomplish this by wireless communication.
- 6 Use a combination of ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) for maximum safety.
- 7 Test all smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- 8 Be sure smoke alarms are installed at least 10 feet from cooking appliances to lower the risk of false alarms.
- 9 Practice an escape plan from every room of your house so if your smoke alarm sounds, you know what to do.
- 10 Remember that working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 50 percent.

For more information, visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION.

CORRECTION

A February Briefing article on clothes dryer safety included inaccurate information. The article should have stated that clothes dryer problems account for 4 percent of all home fires.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

ON PATROL

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE STOPPED BY POLICE

Police officers must engage citizens during the course of their duties. Bloomington Police Department officers are trained how to do so safely, efficiently and effectively. Do you know what to do if you're stopped by a police officer while in your vehicle? Follow these guidelines:

- When signaled by an officer, safely pull over to a place out of traffic flow.
- Sit with your hands visible on the steering wheel. If you have passengers, ask them to sit quietly with their hands visible. Avoid sudden movements or ducking in the seat; these actions can unnecessarily alarm the officer.
- If it is dark outside, turn on your inside light when you pull over. For safety reasons, the officer will want to visually scan the car's interior before proceeding.
- Do not get out of your car unless the officer asks you to step out. If you are asked to step out of your vehicle, calmly comply.
- Communicate your actions in advance by telling the officer what you will be doing before you move.
- If requested, you must give the officer your driver's license and valid proof of insurance. Tell the officer where it is before reaching for it, especially if it is tucked away in the glove box.



WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
POLICE DEPARTMENT



GREEN STREETS FOR BLUE WATERS
PROTECTING THE MINNESOTA RIVER

Did you know the Minnesota River is one of the most polluted water bodies in Minnesota? By the time the Minnesota River flows into the metro area, it has been severely impaired from excess phosphorus. The Green Streets for Blue Waters project was created to organize neighborhoods along the Minnesota River to join together and repair the problem by installing rain gardens and other best management practices to infiltrate run-off before it pollutes the river. These practices will reduce sediment, phosphorus, and stormwater volumes generated by the residential area adjacent to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

This spring and summer the City will be working with the community to install rain gardens on residential lots along 107th Street and Mission Lane. The City will also install a rain garden around the parking lot of Gene Kelly Park on East 102nd Street.

The City is partnering with Metro Blooms, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and Friends of the Minnesota River on the project.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAIN GARDENS.

BEAUTIFY YOUR YARD
ANNUAL TREE SALE ADDS HUNDREDS OF TREES TO LANDSCAPE

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to be one of the community's treasures. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds an annual public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare-root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Autumn Blaze red maple	_____ American Sentry linden
_____ Hackberry	_____ Imperial honeylocust
_____ Northwood red maple	_____ Prairie Fire crab apple
_____ River birch	_____ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees X \$50 ea. = \$ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 4, 9 - 11 a.m.**
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



The City's annual tree sale will provide a variety of tree species again this year, including: Autumn Blaze red maple, American Sentry linden, hackberry, Imperial honeylocust, Northwood red maple, Prairie Fire crab apple, River birch, and Snowdrift crab apple.

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. Visit the [City's website](#) for more information and a printable order form.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.